



Mission Statement



The Galveston Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of public safety services for the community. We will protect lives and property through;

**Fire Prevention
Public Education
Firefighter Safety
Fire & Rescue Operations
Emergency Medical First Response
Disaster Management**



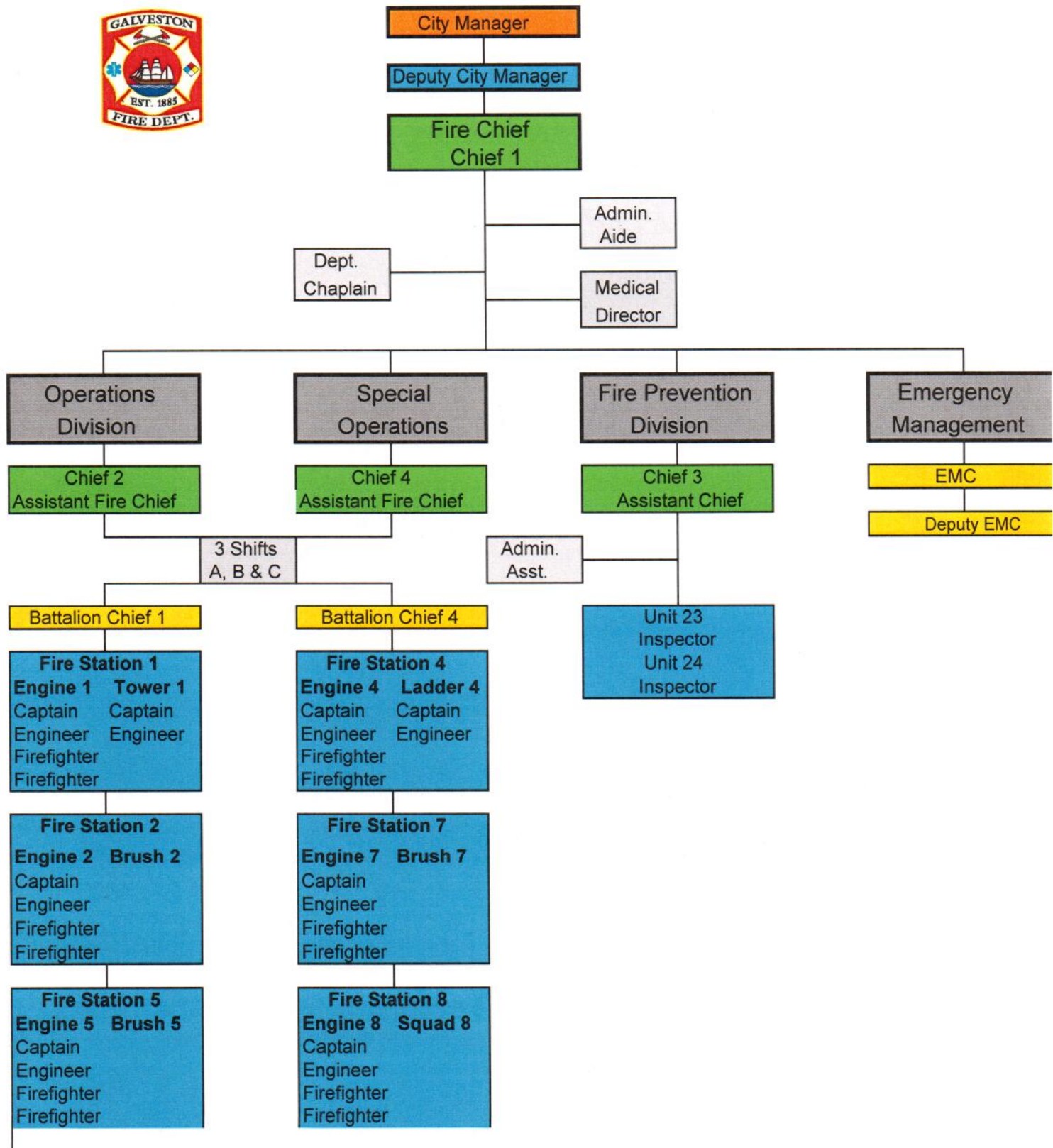
Fire Chief's Message

The Galveston Fire Department had another progressive year in 2016. This annual report will provide a brief overview of the most significant events that affected our successes in providing superior emergency services to our residents and visitors. The GFD added a fifth division to our department in June when the Emergency Management office was assigned to us. Today there are a total of 120 personnel in the fire department.

During 2016, GFD responded to 6,964 calls for service. These calls include fires, rescues, medical emergencies, hazardous material spills and general public service requests. We also responded when requested to assist other fire departments within Galveston County as well as across the State of Texas.

The men and women who are the Galveston Fire Department are dedicated to providing the highest level of fire and life safety services and constantly strive to improve their knowledge and capabilities. I am honored to lead this great department and serve the citizens of Galveston.

GFD Organizational Chart





Fire Administration



Fire Chief Mike Wisko



Assistant Chief Charles Olsen



Assistant Chief Gilbert Robinson



Assistant Chief Richie Pearson



Admin. Asst. Trish Anderson



Admin. Asst. Nora Garcia



Chaplain Kelly Vaughan



Operations Division



The Operations Division is under the direction of Asst. Chief Charlie Olsen and is the largest of our five Divisions. The personnel assigned to operations are responsible for all emergency responses. There are six Fire Stations across the Island and each is staffed 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Firefighters work a 24 hour shift followed by 48 hours off regardless of holidays or weekends. We operate six Engine Companies, two Ladder Companies and two Battalion Chiefs each day with a minimum staffing requirement of 30 Firefighters daily.



We staff our Engine Companies with four personnel including one Captain, one Engineer and two Firefighters. Our Ladder Companies are staffed with a Captain and Engineer while our Battalion Chiefs are single person units.

Battalion 1 is east of 61st street.

Station 1 (2514 Sealy)



Engine 1, Tower 1 and Battalion 1.

Station 2 (428 Church)



Engine 2 and Brush 2

Station 5 (5728 Ball)



Engine 5, Brush 5, Squad 5 & Marine 5, our Rescue Boat.

Battalion 4 is west of 61st street.

Station 4 (Scholes Airport)



Engine 4, Ladder 4 and Battalion 4.

Station 8 (21710 S. Shelby Drive)



Engine 8 and Brush 8

Station 7 (3902 12 mile Rd)



Engine 7 and Squad 7



Special Operations



The Special Operations Division under the Command of Assistant Chief Richie Pearson. This division is responsible for a variety of department functions including;

Training

State Compliance

Professional Development

Equipment purchasing & Maintenance

Fleet Services

Recruitment

Technical Rescue

Hazardous Materials

Marine Firefighting

Wild Land Firefighting

TIFMAS Response



2015 Training

Battalion - 1A 8,678

Battalion - 1B 8,437

Battalion - 1C 8,743

Battalion - 4A 5,662

Battalion - 4B 4,691

Battalion - 4C 5,884

2016 Training

Battalion 1A - 7,133

Battalion 1B - 7,581

Battalion 1C - 9,429

Battalion 4A - 5,638

Battalion 4B - 6,458

Battalion 4C - 6,448



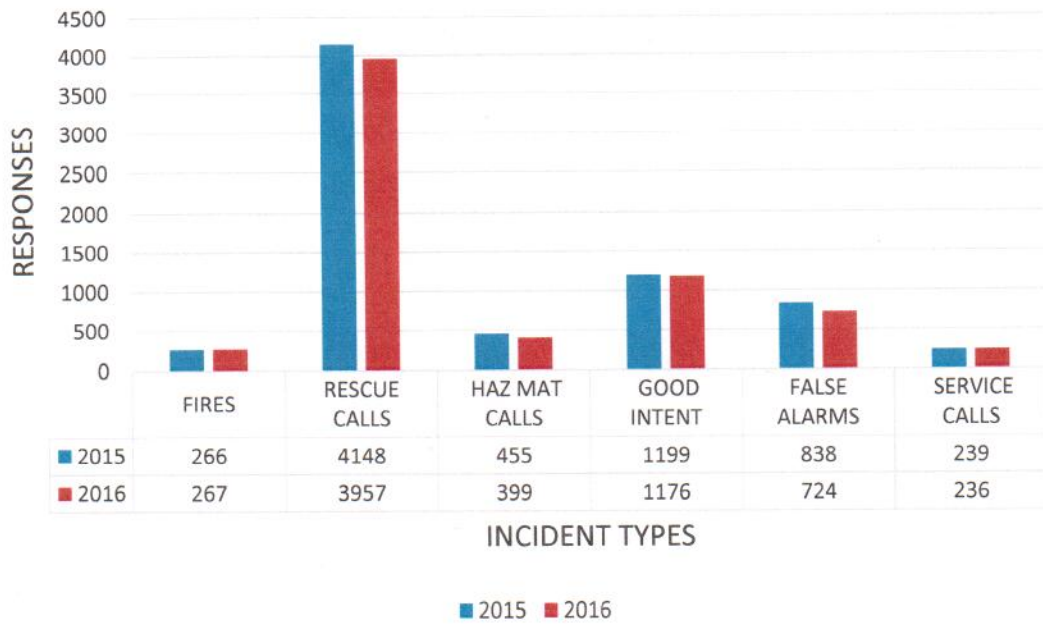
Fire Prevention Division



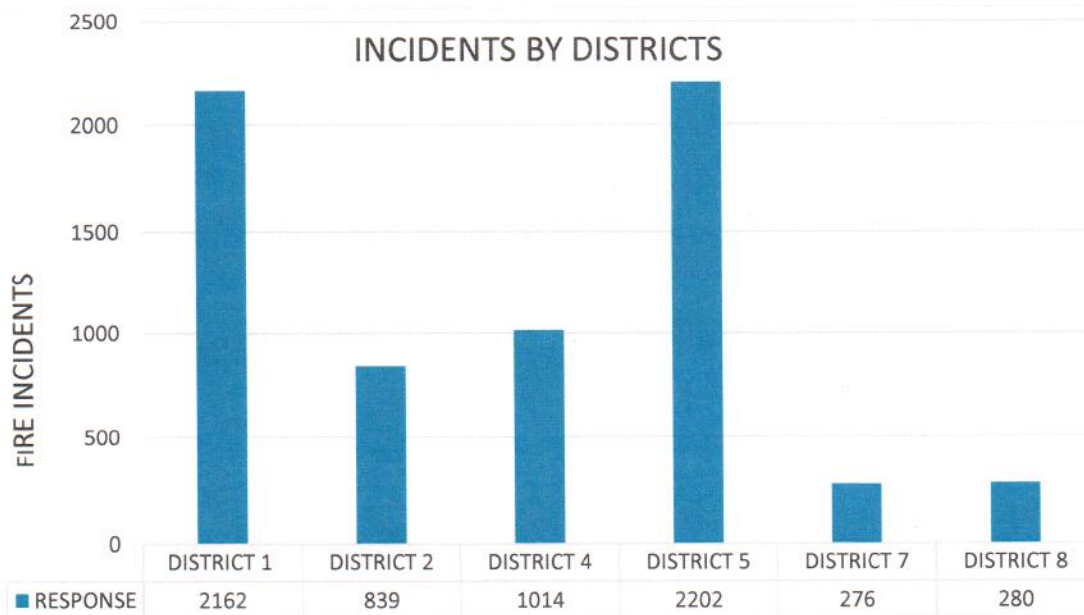
The Prevention Division is managed by Asst. Chief / Fire Marshal Gilbert Robinson and has a staff of 3 including two Inspectors and an Administrative Asst. They are responsible for fire inspections, investigations, record keeping, plan review and Public education. The Prevention staff works closely with the personnel in all other divisions to ensure that GFD is living up to our mission on a daily basis. On the next several pages, you will see statistics compiled by the Prevention staff.



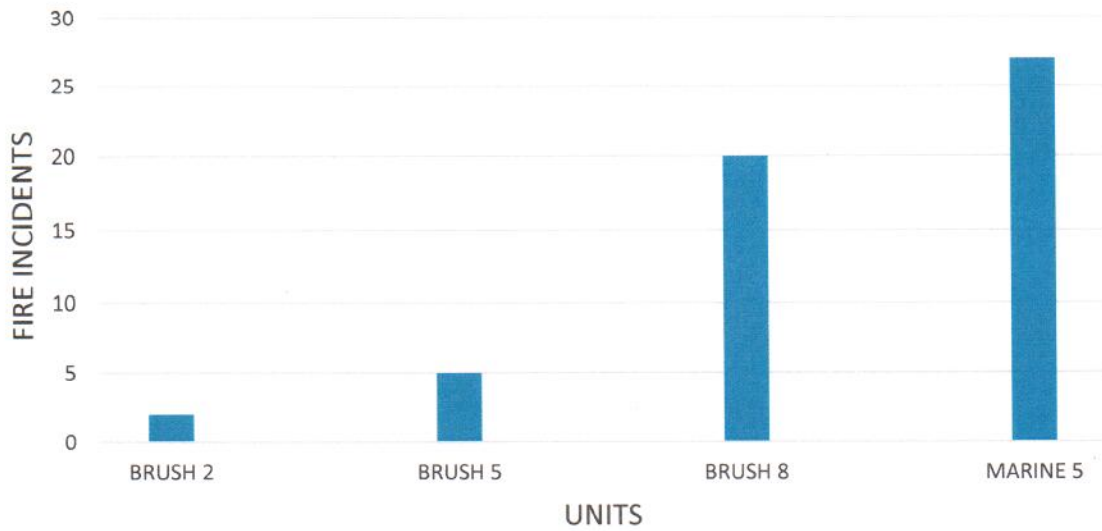
SUMMARY BY INCIDENTS



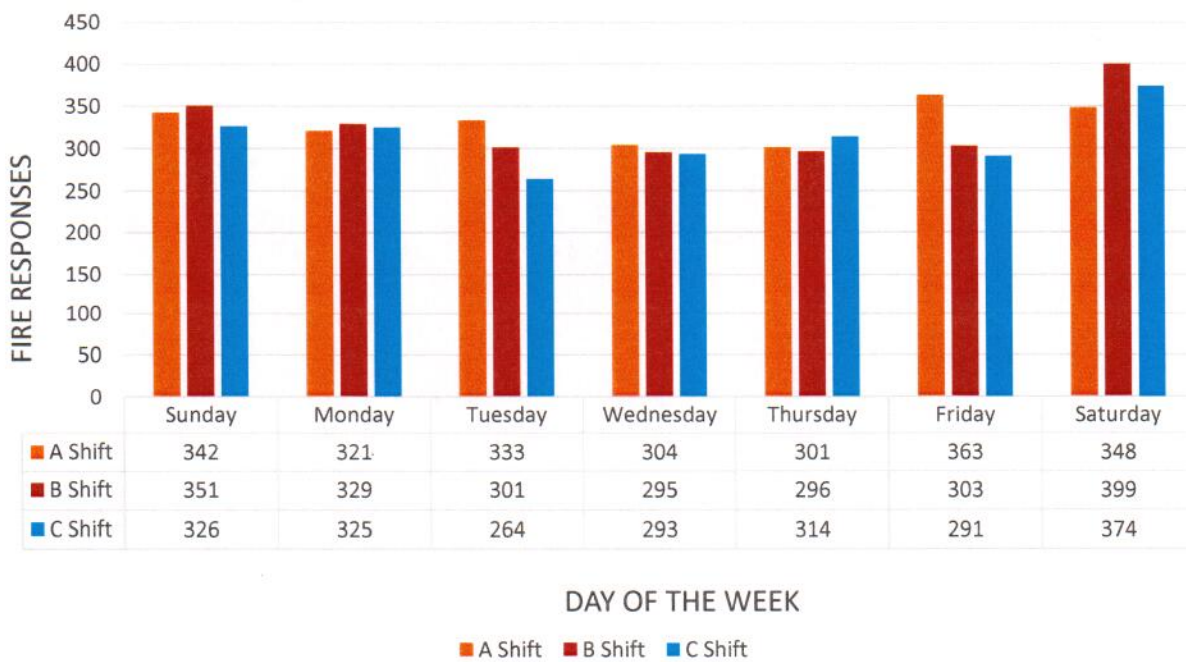
INCIDENTS BY DISTRICTS



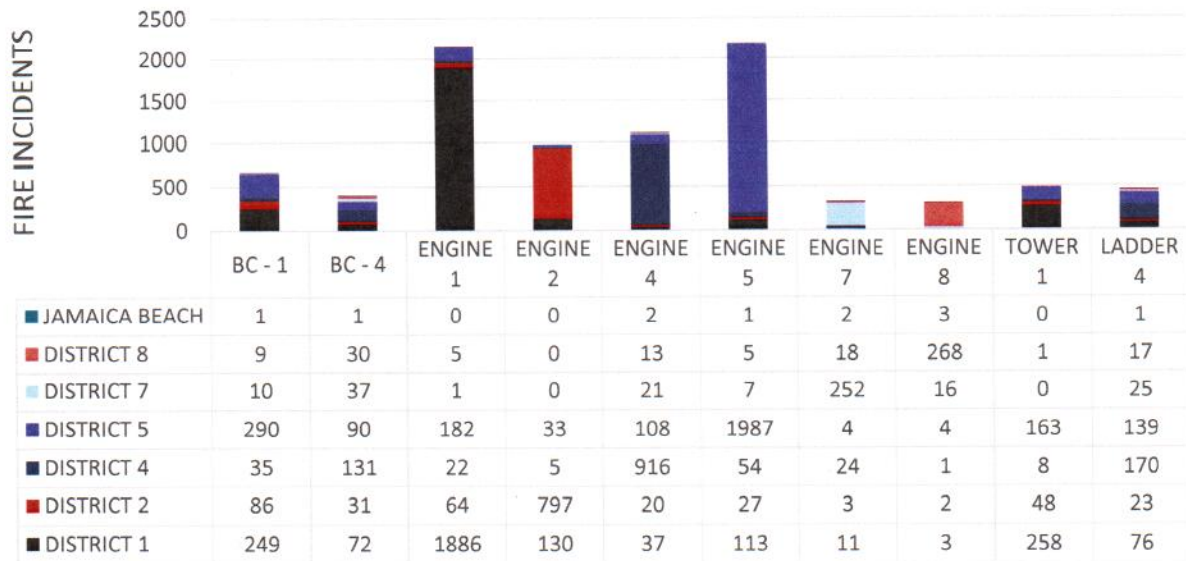
SPECIAL OPERATION RESPONSES



INCIDENTS BY DAY OF THE WEEK / SHIFT



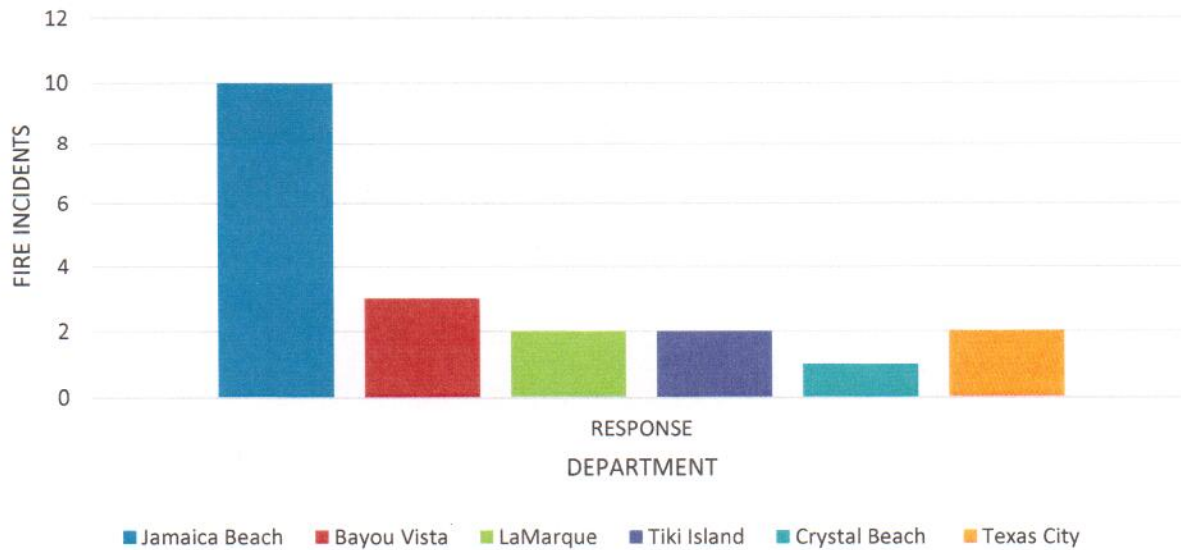
APPARTAUS RESPONSES



UNITS

■ DISTRICT 1
 ■ DISTRICT 2
 ■ DISTRICT 4
 ■ DISTRICT 5
 ■ DISTRICT 7
 ■ DISTRICT 8
 ■ JAMAICA BEACH

MUTUAL AIDE CALLS





Emergency Management



In June 2016, the City's Office of Emergency Management was moved under the direction of the GFD. Longtime EMC Charlie Kelley and Deputy EMC Rosana Pratt became civilian members of the department. Just six weeks later, Charlie passed away following a brief illness. Captain Mark Morgan stepped up and assisted with the day to day operations until our new EMC Niki Bender was appointed in November 2016.

The OEM is responsible for all emergency management planning with a major emphasis placed on Hurricane preparation. In addition, the OEM staff coordinates public safety messages throughout the year, as well as event planning and coordination for many of our annual special events including Lone Star Bike Rally and Mardi Gras.

During 2016, the OEM staff:

Managed one Level III EOC activation during Lone Star Rally 2016

Trained 267 employees in ICS/NIMS training to maintain compliance with State & Federal requirements

They participated in five emergency exercises

- **Winter Storm Jan 2016:** The City of Galveston along with partners within the county participated in a Winter Storm Preparedness exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to test the City's ability to prepare for and respond to a winter storm that would bring freezing temperatures as well as precipitation to Galveston Island. This winter weather tabletop exercise met all the capability that were wanting to be evaluated. City participants as well as external agencies were glad to conduct the exercise so that everyone could be on the same page about what the protocols and processes are for a Winter weather event.
- **TSG POD Exercise Feb 2016:** Along with the TSG, the City of Galveston OEM participated in a POD Exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to test the City's ability to distribute water and ice to citizens after a hurricane situation. This exercise took place at Island Community Center, which is one of the City's POD locations. This exercise was a success, it showed that the City's POD plan for ingress and egress for this location were still valid and useable.

- **USCG HurrEx Feb 2016:** The purpose of this exercise was to test the City of Galveston ability to virtually, through Digital Sandbox, report damages after a Category 3 Hurricane.
- **Active Shooter April 2016:** Along with the Port of Galveston, the City participated in an active shooter scenario full scale exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to test the City's ability to respond to an Active Shooter incident in an highly trafficked area. This active shooter full scale exercise met all the capability that were wanting to be evaluated. City participants as well as external agencies were glad to conduct the exercise so that everyone could have the same understanding of how to responding in an active shooter event. Overall the active shooter full scale exercise helped the City and other partners to be better prepared for an active shooter incident. It also help them to identify what components were missing and what they needed to do to be better prepared for an active shooter event.
- **Unified Command Fire Oct 2016:** A few weeks before Lone Star Rally the City of Galveston along with other emergency management partners on Galveston Island conducted a Tabletop Exercise simulating a fire scenario . The purpose of this exercise is to test the City of Galveston fire preparedness capabilities as well as the preparedness of our partners that would help the City respond to a large fire during a planned special event. The City's overall response to this incident was proactive and effective. The actions taken were appropriate and demonstrated the capability to coordinate issues and work together. Successful response strategies were developed to address better response in the future and better support of Unified Command operations.

They delivered multiple awareness & preparedness programs including:

- **Hurricane Awareness Tour:** NOAA's Hurricanes experts visited Galveston to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for Hurricane Season. Citizens had the opportunity to tour the aircrafts that the National Hurricane Center Hurricane Hunters use to collect data from Hurricanes. During this event the OEM distributes preparedness materials (hurricane guides, preparedness pamphlets, etc.) to over 550 Middle School students and over 500 of the general public.
- **Apartment Association Preparedness Summit:** OEM Presented a preparedness talk to the TX apartment association on the importance of preparing apartment residents for Hurricane Season. Over 200 packets of preparedness materials were distributed, for landlords to distribute to their residents.

- **Wally Wise Guy:** In collaboration with the Galveston County LEPC, OEM assisted in the presentation of the Wally Wise Guy Program in the City of Galveston. OEM and Wally visited 3rd to 5th Grade students and presented to them the importance of Sheltering in place. Over 300 students received shelter in place material as well as hurricane preparedness material.
- **Preparedness Flyers for Hotels:** During major holiday weekend on Galveston Island and Special Events, OEM distributed over 1600 flyers each holiday/event to major hotels on the island. The purpose of the flyers are to give visitors safety tips as they have “fun in the sun” on Galveston Island. Tips ranged from water safety, to opting in to receive emergency notification from the city.
- **Social Media:** Throughout the year OEM post information via Facebook and Twitter on Preparedness and Safety: Messages range from Hurricane Preparedness, water safety, fire safety, etc. OEMs goals is to provide safety and awareness messages to all the hazards that might impact Galveston island.

and they worked with City staff to update two annexes of the City’s emergency plan including:

- **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The OEM began updating the City of Galveston Hazard Mitigation plan. This plan is due for review and renewal every 5 years by FEMA. OEM is currently in the final stages of getting this plan approved by FEMA.
- **Annex E:** July 2016 OEM updated Annex E of the City of Galveston Emergency Operations Plan. Annex E is the evacuation annex to the City Emergency Plan.



Significant Incidents

During the year, we experienced several incidents that are classified as significant due to injuries, and/or major damage. In the next few pages we will recap each of these incidents.

On **Feb 6** at 1936hrs, C shift Battalion 1 responded to a Working Fire @ 3815 Winnie, Well's Restaurant. Crews quickly extinguished the fire that caused extensive damage. BC1 requested a 2nd alarm for manpower but cancelled the units after a quick knockdown was accomplished. The building suffered extensive damage.



On **Feb 16** at 2249hrs, A shift Engine 5 & Battalion 1 responded to a Vehicle in the water at Causeway. A vehicle had driven off the railroad bridge and was partially submerged in the water with one occupant inside the vehicle. Crews were able to extricate the Driver and GEMS transported.

On **Feb 19**, A shift responded to three separate fires at Seaport Village 7200 Heard's Lane. The first fire occurred at 1340hrs. Upon arrival and after an extensive search, a fire was located in a wall within a 1st floor apartment. The fire was extinguished and the power to the affected apartment units were cut off. As Engine 4 was preparing to leave the scene, they observed smoke issuing from the attic of a different portion of the same building. They quickly determined there was a working fire in the attic space which ultimately required a 2nd alarm to extinguish. This time, the power to the entire building was disconnected. Once again at 2100hrs, crews from Battalion 4 responded back to the same complex and found smoke coming from the attic at the opposite end of the same building. This fire was quickly extinguished and a subsequent investigation determined all three fires resulted from faulty wiring in the

building. Even with the power cut, electricity was being conducted through the wiring from the security lighting on the building.

Shortly after 1930hrs on **Feb 27**, Battalion 4-C shift responded to a working fire at 19623 Shores. The fire was upgraded to a 2nd alarm with automatic aid from Jamaica Beach VFD. Two injuries were reported.

Just before 1700hrs on **Apr 3**, A shift Battalion 1 responded to the Ocean Star Oil Rig Museum on Pier 20 for a working fire. The fire posed some challenges due to the distance to the Rig from the pier. After stretching approximately 400ft of 2 ½, crews reached the exterior fire and quickly extinguished it.

Shortly after 0400hrs on Saturday **July 2**, Battalion 1-B responded to a house fire 3202 Ave N1/2. Upon arrival they found fire on the porch and extending up the exterior wall. The fire was quickly extinguished and upon further investigation it was determined the fire was running up the walls via the balloon frame construction. Crews worked quickly to contain the fire. One occupant was injured while escaping but did not require hospitalization.



Just after 1400hrs on **July 2**, Battalion 1 C responded to a house fire at 1508 Tremont. They arrived to find a house that had been converted into a dentist office heavily involved with fire. An interior attack was initiated and Engine 1 encountered heavy fire on the first floor. Due to the proximity of adjacent structures and the high winds on this day, the fire was rapidly spreading and threatening other structures. A second alarm was requested early into the fire as crews worked to remove second floor windows which were covered with clear Plexiglas from the inside. Approximately 30 minutes into the fire, with heavy fire involvement in the attic, the decision to go defensive was made. All crew were ordered out of the structure. It was at this time that one Firefighter became separated from his crew on the second floor. The Safety Officer and other crew members quickly realized a member was missing and called a MAYDAY. The crew along with a RIT crew proceeded to the second floor, located the missing Firefighter and assisted him outside within 1 minute. The Firefighter had no injuries and this

incident has been the catalyst for some in-depth review of our current policies & procedures. While the outcome was successful with everyone surviving the incident, we must remain vigilant and ensure firefighter safety through adequate Policies & procedures.

During the Lone Star Bike Rally on **Nov 5**, Fire watch crews responded to a Tent fire within the entertainment district downtown. The fire was quickly extinguished and only one minor injury was reported. This single incident during LSR re-affirms the reason we have Firefighters working in the event areas during these large events.



Battalion 1B responded to a building fire at 2312 40th street at 1400hrs on **Nov 13**. Crews arrived and found a working fire in the garage area under the apartments. The fire originated in a vehicle parked under the building and due to high winds, quickly spread across the building. During the fire attack and primary search, Engine 1 & Engine 5 met up inside the second floor apartment. Suddenly, without warning, the floor collapsed dropping all six firefighters to the floor below. While only minor injuries were reported, this incident again highlighted the need to examine SOP's to determine how we could prevent this from occurring in the future.

These are just a few of the incidents GFD responded to during 2016. Although we experienced two close calls, we all survived and we can proudly boast that we did not record a single fire fatality for the entire year.

Station 7 Renovation

Station 7 was built in 1978 as a combination Fire, Police and EMS station. Over the years, Hurricanes and other adverse weather has taken a toll on the structure. In 2013, with Hurricane recovery money available, discussions began to renovate the building. It was determined that GFD needed all the available space and the decision was made to renovate the entire building.

Before



After



The re-model project began in October 2015 after an 18 month design phase. On May 5, 2016, the crew of Engine 7 moved back into their renovated station. Over \$400,000.00 was spent on the project and the station is a huge improvement from what it was before.



Awards Ceremony

On August 31, we held our annual Awards ceremony. This is the time each year that we bring department members, city officials and family members together to celebrate all the good things that happen in the department by recognizing our members for their accomplishments.

Retirements

1. Glenn Reddin – 26 years



Promotions

1. Richie Pearson – Assistant Fire Chief
2. Kevin Wright - Engineer
3. Jared Hauert - Engineer
4. Chris Malbrough - Engineer
5. Carl Hubbell -Engineer
6. Steven Jones- Engineer



New Hires

1. Brennan Jones
2. Tommy Hoff
3. Mark Flanagan
4. Austin Brinkley
5. Jeremy Progner
6. Stewart Jackson
7. Jordan Scott
8. James Temple

This individuals contribute to the GFD in many ways other than their assigned duties. They all also serve on various committees assisting with special projects through the year including truck and equipment maintenance.

Captain Paul Chide

Captain Daniel Martinez

Captain Gregg Riley

Captain Mark Morgan

Engineer John Eaton

Firefighter Jeremy Dixon

Firefighter Dan Duepner

Firefighter Michael Stuart

Firefighter Nathan Vaughan

Engineer David Cangelosi

In 2015 & 2016, these three men assisted the Wounded Warriors by participating in their annual fishing tournament (Fire vs Police) 1st Place

Firefighter Kenny Moffett

Firefighter Jimmy Zaro

Engineer Jeff Pucciarello

On May 4, 2016 Engine 7 & Battalion 4 received a phone call from a citizen requesting assistance with a funeral on private property. Receiving a Blue Service to Community Bar.

Battalion Chief Mel Rourke

Captain Scott Smith

Captain Richard Rico

Firefighter Sisto Trigg

Firefighter Jeremy Morris

Firefighter Sean Senegal

On May 22, Engine 1 A shift – CPR save Receiving a Red Valor commendation bar

Engineer J.R. Urbina

Firefighter Jonathan Cook

Firefighter Jimmy Wisner

Firefighter Stewart Jackson

On August 16, 2016, Engine 1 C shift – Water rescue 1700 Seawall

Captain Mike Varela Jr

Firefighter Jeremy Dixon

Firefighter John Shauck

Firefighter Jordan Scott

Firefighter Jeff Billiott

During the year, GFD willingly assists other Departments with a variety of training and promotional processes. This year we recognized the following members for their service:

Battalion Chief Chris Harrison – Longview Assessment

Battalion Chief Gary Staudt - Pearland

Battalion Chief Mel Rourke – Longview Assessment

Captain William Roy - Pearland

Captain Mike Varela Jr – Longview assessment

For the first time, we recognized all GFD members who have been part of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid (TIFMAS) program. This statewide system uses fire departments from across Texas to assist with major incidents when the local resources are overwhelmed. Galveston was the first department to receive the benefits of TIFMAS following Hurricane Ike in 2008. It was then that we decided GFD would participate in TIFMAS and return the favor to all those who assisted us in our time of need. Since 2011, GFD has responded to nine incidents across Texas including wild fires in 2011 in Possium Kingdom, Bastrop, Magnolia, Northeast Texas and wild fires in 2015 in Ozona (twice), Bastrop, Huntsville. We also responded to Deweyville in 2016 following the devastating flooding that occurred in East Texas. The following personnel were responsible for representing GFD while we assisted our fellow Texans:

Asst. Chief Charles Olsen

Asst. Chief Richie Pearson

Battalion Chief Tom Winn

Battalion Chief Tim Johnson

Battalion Chief Andy Bowen

Captain Mike Varela

Captain Jarod Hutson

Engineer James Yancey

Engineer Brian Lee

Engineer Brad Magness

Engineer Kevin Wright

Firefighter Kenny Moffett

Firefighter Steven Beall

Firefighter Jonathan Cook

Firefighter Jeremy Dixon

Firefighter Ryan Schaefer

Firefighter Will Thompson



Honor Guard

The Galveston Fire Dept. Honor Guard represents our department with honor and dignity. Each of the members do this for free. This year we recognize the following members for their efforts with the National Honor Guard Academy hosted at Moody Gardens in April 2016 and the 1st Annual Honor Guard Fund Raiser which was held in August 2016.

Firefighter Jonathan Cook

Firefighter Nathan Vaughan,

Engineer David Cangelosi and his wife Morgan

Finally, every year we ask others to assist us with various projects. We like to recognize those who step up and help us. This year we recognized the following for their efforts:

Tom Girton – GFD Retirees

Parks Dept. – Barbara Sanderson

IT - Ryan Young

Facilities – Butch Kenworthy

Finance – Mike Loftin

HR – Kent Etienne

Fleet - David Smith

Deputy City Manager Dan Buckley

City Manager Brian Maxwell

Hitchcock Volunteer Fire Dept. - Fire Chief Butch Edwards



2017 Goals



Continuing to work toward achieving an ISO 1 rating

Increase staffing for Fire Marshal's Office

Purchase new Apparatus

Begin construction of New Station 1

Development of a Department Training Plan